

The season of annual Christmas shopping has come around, and the shoppers have begun the cheerful bustle that is half the pleasure of the December season. Within the homes there is the making of fruit cakes and plum puddings and mince meat for the setting forth of Christmas good cheer and for the welcoming home of the members of the family drawn together by the associations of the time that never fails to arouse the spirit of homesickness.

In Virginia December has always crowned the year. Intertwined with all its associations have been the spicy odor of the holly and the pine; interwoven with its sentiment the hanging of the mistletoe and the kiss stolen beneath it. In plantation days, beginning with the first coming of December, the busiest preparations were made for the great holiday. The wood that must keep the Christmas fires roaring was cut and stacked ready for use; floors were waxed and rubbed until they took on an extra degree of polish; ground pine was scattered in graceful festoons for the adornment of halls, drawing-rooms and dining-rooms, and from its wreathing the scarlet of the holly berry made a good foil for the mistletoe's pearl. The storeroom shelves were packed, of course, with every dainty that the palate could desire. There was a tuning of violins, a strumming of banjos, a suppressed sound of merriment in the atmosphere. There was a whispering over Christmas gifts, simple and homely though they might be; there was a throbbing of the heart and a lightness in the step that accorded with the tuning of the violins. There were black eyes rolling and white teeth flashing and the echo of soft voices ready to break out into "Christmas gift, merrily!" even before the dawning of Christmas Day came. There was a great gathering at the home, sons and daughters coming from afar to renew their home ties and realize the happiness of seeking the parental hearthstone again. There was the long table with the smiling faces of children and grown people sitting around it, and the benignant presence of the master and mistress rendering its joy complete. There was the music in the gloaming, when the gleams of firelight shone on the portraits wreathed with greenery, on the burrished mahogany and all the surroundings that memory recalls with the image of those vanished December; the deep-cushioned window seats and the piano, with the slender fingers straying over the keys and the notes of "The Mistletoe Bough" melting harmoniously into the fragrant dusk, with which there was such an abiding sense of well-being and content.

There were the dances, when the waves of melody broke in sweetest music upon the dancers' ears; when the quadrille and the waltz ended in the old Virginia reel, and melody, with the soft shimmer of her white gown, and her bronze tresses crowned with a coronal of holly, leads the room, dancing with her father, the gallantest figure still in all the countryside. And the stately rides and the walks, and the pleasant, friendly intercourse—how good it seems to look back upon it all! Much has gone along with the great, square houses and the happy, careless plantation life. Something else better suited to the bustling activities of the present has taken its place, and one, perforce, must be content.

A dance so spirited and so social as the reel does not suit modern ideas, which are attuned to more exciting, whirling in the twist, which has nearly replaced the waltz as bridge has whist, and for much the same reason. There is less color and a more material side to the picture of 1907. The world has grown older, and people are not so readily moved to tears or laughter. They are more complex and critical, and the things that gave delight to those of fifty or seventy-five years ago would not do for the realism of to-day. Everything now is on a splendid scale. December customs have lost in simplicity and gained in adornment. The Christmas tree that delighted the young people and the old people of the early nineteenth century would be considered altogether antiquated if reproduced exactly in some fashionable drawing-room of this year. There is just one thing that remains the same, and that is the Christmas spirit of good-will. Over this spirit the changes that affect everything else can have no power. It was born in the heart of humanity centuries ago, inspired by the song the angels sang when they chanted, "Peace on earth, good-will to men." And so long as the Christmas spirit lives, it matters little what else changes or passes, for that spirit brings the world into the brotherhood of Christ, at whose shrine the world worships on Christmas Day.

Opening of the Season.

The season of 1907-1908 will be formally opened in Richmond to-morrow evening at Masonic Temple, when the Monday German will give its first dance.

The foyer and ballroom will be handsomely decorated with palms and pink and white roses. In the dining-room American Beauties will be used.

The foyer will be converted into a drawing room with rugs, shaded lamps, easy chairs and sofas. Here the married members of the club, who do not care to dance, will play bridge, a diversion at cards being one of the new features of the series of entertainments of the Monday German for this winter.

This opening dance is always rendered very attractive by the presence of a number of the debutantes, who make their debut outside of their homes in pretty much the same fashion that the Charleston girls do at the Saint Cecilia; the Philadelphia buds at the Assembly and the Baltimoreans at the Bachelors' cotillion.

Colonel J. Lane Starr will lead with Miss Virginia Whiteley, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. Calvin Whiteley, Jr., and a much admired debutante of the winter. Other debutantes to whom invitations have been sent are Miss Elizabeth Kell King, Miss Ellen Witt, Miss Wardell Crenshaw, Miss Mary Hart Crenshaw, Miss Marie Milnes, Miss Elizabeth Johnston, Miss Elizabeth Wheat, Miss Rachel Urquhart, Miss Louise Garkey, Miss Sarah Chamberlayne, Miss Julia Grant Moore, Miss Lucy Parko Taylor, Miss Virginia Whiteley, Miss Frances Myers, Miss Daisy Boykin, Miss Meta Randolph and Miss Marion Montague. Officers of the club are Mrs. E. D. Myers, president; Mr. Levin Joyner, vice-president; Mr. George Melville Reid, secretary and treasurer. This executive committee is composed of Messrs. Allen Potts, W. S. Mayo, John Currie and James W. Gray. Patronesses of the German are Mrs. E. T. D. Myers, Jr., Mrs. Thomas Bolling, Mrs. Allen Potts, Mrs. Jordan Leake, Mrs. Levin Joyner, Mrs. Thomas Nelson Carter, Mrs. John S. Shaw, Mrs. Joseph E. Willard, Mrs. R. Bryan, Mrs. Scott and Mrs. Egbert G. Leigh, Jr.

Woman's Club.

Mrs. Frances Fearn, the widow of the Hon. Walker Fearn, United States minister to Greece and Roumania, is at present making an extensive tour throughout the United States to interest the general public in advanced work among the blind.

Mrs. Fearn is spending some time in Richmond, and will give a public lecture here during her stay. In the meantime she has consented to speak to the Woman's Club on Monday afternoon at half-past 4 about Elizabeth, Queen of Roumania, better known to the world as Carmen Sylva, poetess, model and philanthropist, whose messenger she is.

Mrs. Fearn is a Kentuckian by birth, and during her girlhood spent most of her time in Louisville and New Orleans. For the last twenty-two years she has resided abroad, where she is well known in court circles.

Hostesses of the afternoon will include Miss A. T. Daniel, Mrs. S. V. Travers, Mrs. Christopher Tompkins, Miss Annie Stagers Watson, Mrs. John Harris, Miss Annie Moore, Mrs. J. Taylor Ellyson and Mrs. Thomas Cary Johnson.

The Literary Round Table will meet on Wednesday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock. Mrs. Alice M. Tyler being chairman of the day. She has chosen as her subject "Christmas—Its Legends and Associations."

Mercer-Sherwood.

The wedding of Miss Kathleen Owen Sherwood, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Sherwood, to Dr. C. Wilmer Mercer, of Blackstone, Va., son of Dr. C. A. Mercer, of No. 30 East Main Street, this city, will be celebrated Wednesday, December 18th, in Coliseum Baptist Church, New Orleans, La.

The church will be beautifully decorated with palms and flowers. Miss Inez Sherwood, sister of the bride, will attend her as maid of honor, and Mr. E. D. Mercer, brother of the groom, will be best man.

A reception will be given in the bride's home after the ceremony, after which the young couple will start on a Northern bridal tour. They will spend the Christmas holidays with Dr. Mercer's parents here, and afterward make their home at Blackstone, Va., where Dr. C. Wilmer Mercer, who formerly belonged to the ambulance corps in Richmond, is now professionally located.

Dances of Tuesday German.

The first dance of the Tuesday German will be given on the evening of December 26th in Masonic Temple, from 9 to 12 o'clock. The others will follow on alternate Tuesday evenings until the beginning of the new year.

Officers of the club for this year are Mr. Thomas P. Bryan, president; Mr. C. B. Baskdale, Lathrop, vice-president; Mr. Stuart G. Christian, secretary and treasurer. Members of the executive committee include Mr. Henry G. Elliott, Mr. James K. Dunlop, Mr. Robert A. Stewart and Mr. George Fitzgerald.

Patronesses of the dances will be Mrs. Thomas P. Bryan, Mrs. Henry Landon Cabell, Mrs. Calvin Whiteley, Jr., Mrs. R. Carter Scott, Mrs. Fred Pleasant, Mrs. C. D. Larus, Jr., Mrs. E. G. Leigh, Jr., and Mrs. Portia Robinson.

Richmond Girls in New York.

The dances given by the Southern Society in New York are being graced by the presence of a number of Richmond girls, among whom are Miss Patsy Webb Royall, who is visiting Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Scott, and Miss Elizabeth Rodman Selden, the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Tabb, who have an apartment at Ninety-sixth Street and Broadway. Miss Selden attended the Maryland Society dance at the Waldorf-Astoria, and has her card full of engagements for days ahead.

She will be a guest at a dinner and opera party to be given this week in honor of Miss Royall, who gave Verdi's opera, "Aida," last week from Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan's box, being one of a party chartered by Mrs. Ellingham Lawrence. Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Barney have given her a dinner and opera party to see "Lohengrin." Her hosts, Mrs. Scott, made up an opera box party for her to enjoy Wagner's "Flying Dutchman," and Mr. Westley Hunt Gifford was the host of a theatre party, with her as his guest of honor.

Mrs. George Deane of New York, formerly Miss Bruce, of Virginia, has also entertained Miss Royall. She will remain in New York until the holiday season brings her home, and so will Miss Selden.

The Entire Store Astir With the Xmas Spirit

Novelty Veils

New ideas in Novelty and plain Chiffon make this Christmas showing of Veils of interest, as it offers many suggestions in the gift line. All the new shades are here.

Chiffon Veils, two-yard and three-yard lengths, very good quality chiffon, put up in fancy Xmas box, all new shades, from \$1.12 to \$2.50.

Creme Chiffon Veils, with three borders, in black, navy, light blue, red and brown, special, 50c yard.

Latest creation of Net Veiling, with raised dot, in black and brown; prices, 75c yard and 85c yard.

SPECIALS

Sale of Back Combs

100 Beautiful Rhinestone Combs on sale at half the regular prices—\$2.75, \$3.25, \$4.75, \$5.45.

Sale of Beaded Bags

Our own importation. Bags that sell regularly at \$1.00 and \$1.50 now reduced to 50c and \$1.00.



Kaufmann & Co

Women's Coats Sharply Reduced

The tremendous reduced price sale, commenced a few days ago, is now on for the purpose of clearing the stock now instead of waiting until the eve of stock-taking time. We describe three in particular, but assure you there are many others, both Suits and Coats, equally as attractive.

\$10 Coats for \$7.50

Coats, 50 inches long, of good quality cheviot and Kersey, yoke lined, trimmed with buttons, braid and straps of same material; castor and black; a serviceable, comfortable Coat that always sells for \$10.00; special, \$7.50.

\$15 and \$12 Coats for \$10

of cheviots and Kersey; some made in plain, double-breasted cheviots; others trimmed Kerseys; all in 50 and 52-inch long, loose back; made by best tailors; exceptional values at \$10.00.

\$30, \$27.50 and \$25 Coats for \$20

Made of the very best quality of imported cloths and Kerseys; dozens of styles to choose from; elaborately trimmed with braid; extremely stylish effects.

CARACUL COATS.—Our showing of imported Caracul Coats, popularly priced, are exact in every detail. The showing includes the pony effect and also the long, three-quarter length, handsomely trimmed and lined with heavy satin.

Newest Waists at Lowest Prices

In Ecru, White and Colors.

For Afternoon and Evening Wear.

A lucky purchase enables us to give to our patrons the greatest values it has ever been our good fortune to offer in fine Waists. The sale is particularly opportune, coming just at the height of Christmas buying.

Dressy Waists of white net mounted on Jap silk, pointed yoke of baby Irish, outlined with ruffles and Val lace; lower part of waist and sleeves also ornamented with Val lace; special offer, value \$5.00—

\$3.75

Extra Full Waist of cream silk net, made V shaped yoke and collar, lace trimmed sleeves; entire waist lined in ecru Jap silk; value \$7.50—

\$5.00

Aprons and Caps

For reason of their usefulness they make very acceptable Holiday gifts for maids, waitresses and nurses.

Nurses' and Maids' Aprons of white muslin, with tucks or embroidery inserting, 62c and 50c.

Others of sheer white muslin, with three big tucks, also tucked bib corresponding, \$1.00.

Nurses' Caps of dotted Swiss, with accordion-plaited ruffles to face, edged with Val, 25c and 35c.

Others adapted for waitresses, of dotted Swiss and plain muslin, trimmed in various styles; prices, 12½c, 15c, 19c and 25c.

Further Reductions Throughout the Millinery Stock

Pattern and simply trimmed Hats can now be bought at one-half of regular prices. Our adept trimmers are here ready to execute your orders, should your wants not be found among our trimmed Hats.



Jewelry of Newest Designs

All our stock is strictly new—carrying over from year to year being unknown here. Everything here is of the latest.

Rhinestone Horseshoe Pins, so very fashionable; small, medium and large size; very special, \$1.00.

Rhinestone Horseshoe Pins, mounted on sterling silver, make pretty holiday gifts, \$1.50, \$1.75, \$2.25, \$2.95.

Brooches, set with stones, in variety of colors to match costumes; latest novelty, 95c.

Earrings, set with brilliant rhinestones on 14-K gold-filled mounting; in heart and floral designs, bought at reductions that we offer 50c quality at 25c.

Reliable Furs

Much Under Price

Our buyer, now in the market, made a special purchase of excellent Furs, which enables us to offer just the things you may have on your list for Xmas presents. Also 15 per cent. reduction on all our previous furs. Merit has made our Furs famous.

Few Suggestions

Each article is moderately priced and variety unusually large.

Pictures, Bric-a-Brac, Puff Boxes, Dolls, Art Brass Wear, Tiffany Wear, Fans, Smokers' Articles, Teddy Bears, Toilet Sets.

Timely Gift Things

For Little Folks

We have prepared an immense showing of BONNETS, CAPS, LEGGINGS, DRESSES, SWEATERS, GLOVES—in fact, garments of every description are displayed for the gift-hunter at modest expenditure.

Handkerchiefs

For women, men and children. Endless assortment—many novel ideas in Holiday boxes, secured especially for our Holiday trade. Values are incomparable.

Ladies' Embroidered and Lace Edge Handkerchiefs, great variety of patterns, some worth fully 25c; special, 12½c each.

Children's Initial Handkerchiefs, three in a fancy box, 25c a box.

Ladies' Linen Initial Handkerchiefs, packed six in a box, good value, 85c a box.

Ladies' Sheer Linen Embroidered Handkerchiefs, very special, 25c each.

Men's All-Linen or Cambric Handkerchiefs, 5c, 10c, 12½c, 25c and 45c.

Umbrellas for Gifts.

An endless range of very desirable Umbrellas in plain and fancy handles. Styles to please the most fastidious. Quality and construction of every Umbrella is perfect. An appropriate and acceptable Holiday gift for both men and women.

\$2.38, \$2.50, \$3.98, \$7.98, up to \$15.

Women's Neckwear.

The daintiest novelties, just what every woman appreciates, because they fill a daily need. Many new and exclusive ideas are offered to-morrow at our usual low prices.

Long Accordion-Plaited Lace-Trimmed Jabots, of corn, white and black Oriental chiffon, \$1.00.

Others, \$2.38, \$3.50, \$3.98.

Fluffy Chiffon Jabots, accordeon plaited, with bow effects, black, white and pink, Copenhagen blue, white and tan, in Xmas boxes, 50c.

Chiffon Ruches, made very fluffy, accordeon-plaited ruche, ribbon edge on, and taffeta ribbon end, brown and black, \$1.50.

Better grades in all new shades, \$2.38 and \$3.50.

Six assorted collar lengths of Ruching, put up in fancy Xmas boxes, 25c and 50c a box.

MARABOUT BOAS, in black, white, light blue and gray, also in combination colors; each is an individual design; prices very moderate.

The Glove Stock

Is up to its Christmas standard of completeness. Selections is very large—styles are correct—and prices the lowest. Two good items below for this week:

Ladies' 2-clasp Glove of soft French kid, with heavy stitching on back, in black, white, red, gray, tan and brown; regular \$1.25 kind; special, \$1.10.

16-button Long Real Kid Mosque Gloves, tan, brown, black and white; the usual \$2.75 kind, \$3.00.

A complete showing of Women's and Children's Golf Gloves for warm wear.

Children's Coats

Greatly Reduced

Children's Coats, on third floor, reduced. A Coat for the little one will bring warmth to their body and joy to their heart.

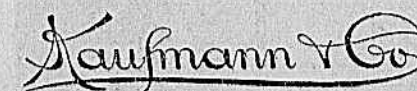
\$3.98 Coats reduced to \$3.00

\$5.00 Coats reduced to \$3.75

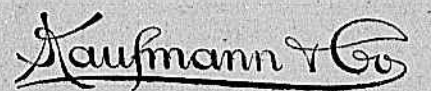
\$6.50 Coats reduced to \$5.00

\$7.50 Coats reduced to \$5.98

\$10.00 Coats reduced to \$7.50



Beginning next Thursday, Dec. 19th, our store will be open nights until Xmas



SNOWDRIET

* HOGLESS LARD *

A vegetable lard, without any hog-fat in it. Made of purest, refined, deodorized cotton seed oil, under Wesson process. Odorless and tasteless.

For bread, biscuit and fancy pastry baking, frying meats, fish, potatoes and doughnuts, and as a substitute for butter, it is the purest and healthiest cooking fat, requiring only three-quarters the amount to attain the same results as from the use of butter. Appeals to housewives from economical and healthful points of view. Will not take on odor of fish, onions or anything else. Will not soak into or become absorbed by anything cooked in it.

SOLD EVERYWHERE

The Southern Cotton Oil Co.

New York Savannah Atlanta New Orleans



Gift Bargains!

We are offering a better line of Gift Goods than can be found anywhere in Richmond at the price. All the latest Leather Novelties. Every kind of Trunk, Bag, Suit Case or other traveller's necessity can be bought here, direct from the factory, better and cheaper than elsewhere. Don't take our word for it, but come in and look around for yourself.

The Rountree Retail Store 703 East Broad St.

The Rayhorn-Fraser Optical Company (Incorporated) 221 East Main Street, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

Chapter to Meet. Old Dominion Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, will hold an important meeting Monday afternoon

at 4 o'clock, in the home of the respondent, Miss Lucy Clair Atkinson, No. 811 East Grace Street.

Personal Mention. Mrs. Nathaniel Bacon Crenshaw, who has been the guest in Richmond of Mr. and Mrs. James Crenshaw, has returned to Philadelphia.

Miss Katherine Hagan, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Hagan, will return from Notre Dame, in Maryland, where she has been attending school, to spend the Christmas holidays with her parents here.

Mrs. J. B. Minor, who has been visiting Mrs. M. J. Darden, of Newcomb's, Va., is now the guest of Mrs. John M. Seabell, Jr., of Ghent, Norfolk. Mrs.

Minor and family will return to Richmond about the first of January.

Mr. Thornton Jones, of Richmond College, has returned from a visit to his aunt, Mrs. W. R. Broadus, of West Point, Va.

Captain Ridgeway Holt, of the Yellow Sulphur Springs, has announced the marriage of his daughter, Innes Ridgeway, to Mr. Paul Peterkin Shaffer, at Lynchburg, on Thursday, December 19th. Mr. and Mrs. Shaffer will reside in Richmond.

Street, on Thursday evening, December 19th, from 9 to 11 o'clock.

Miss Sophia Tillman, daughter of Senator Tillman, of South Carolina, and Miss Ellen Moulton, of Alabama, now at Edline Institute, have been the recent guests of Miss Anna Campbell, at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

The Rev. William Thompson, who has been a Presbyterian missionary to

(Continued on Third Page.)

CASTORIA. The Kind You Have Always Bought. Bear the Signature of J. H. P. H. H.